



**Request for Comments
Exploration Proposal
BSM Claim Group
Scoping Notice
Sawtooth National Forest**



This letter corrects a previous version mailed by the Ketchum Ranger District for the BSM Barite Exploration project that failed to mention the presence of Idaho Roadless designated lands in the project area. Everything else in scoping document remains the same. A new 30-day comment period will start upon publication of a corrected legal notice in the *Idaho Mountain Express*.

Who is proposing the action:

Ira Beer, Owner/Operator, Newport Beach, California

What is the action being proposed: Exploration for mineralization by constructing 16 drill pads and drilling 22 core and reverse circulation holes on their claims on NFS lands during the exploration period. Reconstruction of a collapsed adit in order to assess mineralization underground is a part of the exploration proposal.

How will the action be accomplished: Exploration drilling is proposed at 16 locations using a skid-mounted drill rig. Drill holes will range from 250 to 800 feet deep, averaging approximately 500 feet per hole.

Access to drill pad locations will be conducted within areas previously disturbed by historic mineral exploration and mining operations. Drill pad locations on FS lands will be accessed by established routes across private land and BLM surface. New road construction on private land will link existing two track routes on FS lands. The proposal also requires the creation of an additional 1500 feet of temporary two track access. Drill pads will be prepared using a small dozer or excavator.

Where is the action being proposed: The legal description for proposed activities is section 12 of T 3N, Range 21 E, Blaine County, Idaho. The proposed activities are entirely within the Pioneer Mountain Idaho Roadless Area (IRA). Proposed road work within the Pioneer IRA includes new road construction of just under 0.75 miles; and reconstruction of one mile of existing roads to access the site. Additional exploration and road improvement activities are to be conducted on private and BLM surface adjacent to proposed actions on NSF lands. Mr. Beer has filed a Notice of Intent with the BLM and intends to bond and fulfill all plan requirements for these sites.

When is the action being proposed: The Plan proposes initiating the 22-hole drilling program June 1, 2014. Based on drill results the program may be terminated or extended into a second phase of drilling addressed in an amended plan of operation. Reclamation of all disturbance would conclude by October 1, 2014 if not modified by an amended Plan of Operations.

How you can help us: We ask that you consider this proposal and let us know what you think. Comments are most useful if received by December 15, 2013. This scoping is combined with a 30-day Notice of Comment to be published in the *Idaho Mountain Express*. Please send written comments to: Kurt Nelson, District Ranger, Ketchum Ranger District, P.O. Box 2356, Ketchum, Idaho 83340 (FAX 208-622-3923). Electronic comments can be submitted in MS Word (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf) to: comments-intermtn-sawtooth-ketchum@fs.fed.us.

How we will determine what to do: We will use issues identified by our specialists and those we receive from you to analyze the effects of implementing the project. If necessary, appropriate modifications and mitigations of the proposal will be required to reduce impacts to the environment.

The decision to be made: We will decide to complete the project as proposed or with modifications. Preliminary analysis indicates this project may be documented in an environmental assessment (EA). For more information contact:

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